

By: E. Johnson of Dallas

H.C.R. No. 12

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 WHEREAS, Low voter turnout on election day is a widespread
2 problem across the United States, as Americans attempt to juggle
3 their work and family responsibilities with a visit to their local
4 poll; and

5 WHEREAS, Since 1960, national voter turnout in presidential
6 elections has ranged between 51 and 63 percent of eligible voters;
7 turnout for midterm elections, while up in 2018, has typically not
8 amounted to even half of eligible voters, averaging around 40
9 percent between 1974 and 2014; and

10 WHEREAS, Compared with that of other countries, our numbers
11 are abysmally low, as turnout is well over 80 percent in established
12 democracies around the globe, from Australia to Belgium; and

13 WHEREAS, The causes for this low turnout are complicated, but
14 in surveys of American adults by the U.S. Census Bureau, family and
15 work obligations are frequently cited as a reason for not voting;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Businesses across the country are responding to this
18 challenge through the "Take Back Tuesday" initiative and are
19 closing on election day; on this issue, private enterprise, the
20 engine of America, is leading by example and government should
21 follow suit; and

22 WHEREAS, Voting is the cornerstone of a democracy, and
23 government must act to ensure that all Americans have the
24 opportunity to accept the responsibilities of citizenship and to

1 actively and regularly participate in the electoral process; now,
2 therefore, be it

3 RESOLVED, That the 86th Legislature of the State of Texas
4 hereby respectfully urge the Congress of the United States to
5 designate the Tuesday next after the first Monday in November in
6 2020 and each even-numbered year thereafter as a legal public
7 holiday described in 5 U.S.C. Section 6103; and, be it further

8 RESOLVED, That the Texas secretary of state forward official
9 copies of this resolution to the president of the United States, to
10 the president of the Senate and the speaker of the House of
11 Representatives of the United States Congress, and to all the
12 members of the Texas delegation to Congress with the request that
13 this resolution be entered in the Congressional Record as a
14 memorial to the Congress of the United States of America.